Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: PROPOSAL FOR 1977 ACTIVITIES OF URBAN ENVIRONMENT GROUP

REF: OECD DOCUMENT ENV(75)40 OF OCTOBER 15

PLEASE PASS SOONEST COPY OF THIS CABLE TO OECD ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE FOR PREPARATION OF PROJECT PROPOSAL AS ROOM DOCUMENT.

WITH REFERENCE TO ITEM 7 OF DRAFT AGENDA (ENV/A(75)3) FOLLOWING PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY U.S. FOR CONSIDERATION AS 1977 ACTIVITY OF URBAN ENVIRONMENT GROUP (ANOTHER PROJECT MAY FOLLOW, HAND CARRIED BY USDEL):

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"APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA AND STANDARDS TO LAND USE PLANNING."

SUMMARY: SOUND LAND USE IS FUNDAMENTAL TO CONTROLLING

POLLUTION, TO PRESERVING STABLE ECOSYSTEMS AND TO CREATING THE SAFE, HEALTHFUL, PRODUCTIVE AND AESTHETICALLY AND CULTURALLY PLEASING URBAN ENVIRONMENT ALL OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES DESIRE. OECD MEMBERS AND THEIR CONSTITUENT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE DEVELOPED EXPLICIT LAND USE POLICIES, STANDARDS AND CRITERIA WHICH RESPOND TO MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. AN ASSESSMENT OF PREVAILING EXPERIENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF SUCH ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS WOULD CONTRIBUTE MATERIALLY TOWARD AMELIORATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION CURRENTLY PLAGUING OUR URBAN AREAS. THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE ON A CASE STUDY BASIS THE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS ALREADY DEVELOPED AND WILL PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS TO MEMBER COUNTRIES.

PROJECT PROPOSAL TO OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA AND STANDARDS TO LAND USE PLANNING

- 1. NATURE OF THE PROBLEM: PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IS RECEIVING INCREASED INTEREST, ATTENTION AND CONCERN IN OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IS NOT LIMITED TO POLLUTION ABATEMENT BUT INCLUDES NATURAL AND MAN-MADE HAZARDS, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN URBAN AREAS IN GENERAL. OECD COUNTRIES AND THEIR CONSTITUENT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE EXPLICIT LAND USE POLICIES, STANDARDS AND CRITERIA WHICH RESPOND TO MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. AN IDENTIFICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS BEING APPLIED AND AN EVALUATION OF THE EXPERIENCES OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES COULD BE VALUABLE TO OTHER OECD MEMBERS AS THEY PURSUE PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT.
- 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT: THE PROJECT WILL IDENTIFY AND ASSESS MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF CONCERN TO MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE LAND USE POLICY INSTRUMENTS DEVELOPED UNCLASSIFIED

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(STANDARDS, REGULATIONS AND IMPLEMENTING MEASURES) TO ASSESS AND AMELIORATE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION. ON THE BASIS OF THE INVESTIGATION, STRATEGIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT WILL BE DEVELOPED AND RECOMMENDED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES. THESE STRATEGIES WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO COMPREHENSIVE AND FUNCTIONAL PLANNING PROCESSES AND TO PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS. THIS ACTIVITY COULD FURNISH FRAMEWORK DATA

FOR APPLICATIONS IN OTHER OECD EFFORTS, SUCH AS ASSESSMENT OF ENERGY PRODUCING AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

3: METHODOLOGY FOR CONDUCTING THE PROJECT: THE OECD APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS WILL INCLUDE

THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) INVENTORY ALL LAND USE ORIENTED ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS, ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES, AND IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS (SOURCE CONTROLS, PLANNING AND LAND USE CONTROL METHODOLOGIES, AMELIORATIVE STRATEGIES, ETC.) USED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES.
- (2) DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS SUITABLE FOR CASE STUDY ANALYSIS, SUCH AS: (A) ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WHICH TRANSCEND POLITICAL BOUNDARIES; (B) STANDARDS WHICH CAN BE ACHIEVED WITH LOW CAPITAL COSTS, E.G., STANDARDS WHICH PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AS OPPOSED TO STANDARDS TO REMEDY AN ALREADY DEGRADED ENVIRONMENT; (C) EASE OF INTERPRETATION OF THE STANDARDS AND OF MEASUREMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS AND (D) STANDARDS WHICH ARE COMMON TO A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OR WHICH APPLY TO SIGNIFICANT EMERGING PROBLEMS ("CUTTING-EDGE" ISSUES).
- (3) DEVELOP CASE STUDIES FOR SELECTING STANDARDS TO BE STUDIED IN DEPTH COVERING: (A) BASIS FOR THE STANDARD; (B) HOW IT IS APPLIED; (C) PREVAILING TECHNOLOGY; (D) ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES; (E) MITIGATING MEASURES; AND (F) SUCCESS AND FAILURES IN APPLYING THE STANDARD.
- (4) PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES. UNCLASSIFIED

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4. CONDUCT OF THE PROJECT: THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT SECTOR GROUP WOULD DEVELOP A DETAILED WORK PROGRAM FOR 1977-1978, SELECT STANDARDS FOR STUDY AND PREPARE CASE STUDIES OF MEMBER STATES' EXPERIENCES, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON POLICY OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.

TIME AND STAFF REQUIREMENTS: IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE PROJECT WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN A TWO-YEAR PERIOD AND WOULD REQUIRE TWO-PERSON YEARS BY THE SECRETARIAT AND COMMITMENT OF ONE-PERSON YEARS BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. KISSINGER

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